And P41

Fishguard & Goodwick Urban District Council.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1938.

"ECHO" Printing Works, Fishguard.

ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health of the Fishguard and Goodwick U.D.C.

To the Chairman and Members of the Fishguard and Goodwick Urban District Council.

Dear Sirs,—I have pleasure to present my Annual Report for the year 1938.

Area in Acres, 2,165.
Population, 4,776.
No. in Inhabited Houses, 1,483.
Rateable value, £16,335.
Sum represented by a 1d. rate, £62.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.
Live Births.	
Legitimate	52
Illegitimate	2
Still Births.	
Legitimate	2
Deaths	64
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	11.3
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	11.7
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	13.4
Deaths from Pueperal Causes	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	55.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Births	57.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa under 2 years of age	0

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	12	Majority.	1
Diptheria	2	1.	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
20 years	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
21 years to 27 years	2	1	--	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. .	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	1

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part time), T. H. James, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Sanitary Inspector (full time), Arthur James, M.S.I.A. Cert. R. San. Inst. Cert., Meat and other Foods R. San. Inst.

There are two District Nurses in the area who are under the jurisdiction of the County Medical Officer.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

(1) County Health Department, Haverfordwest.

(2) Pathological Department, Swansea Hospital.

(3) Clinical Research, London.

(4) University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulances are available at the County Hospital, Haverfordwest, and for infectious diseases an ambulance is provided from the Isolation Hospital at Pembroke Dock.

TREATMENT CENTRE AND CLINICS.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare centres are held at Fishguard and Goodwick each month and attended by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

(b) School Clinics are held at the County Schools at Fishguard and Goodwick, and are attended by the School Medical Officer.

(c) Tuberculosis Dispensary held every month by the Tuberculosis Officer.

(d) Pembrokeshire Association for the Care of Cripples held at Narberth and attended by Dr. Jones, of the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.

SANITARY REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1938.

Water Supplies.

During the year it was necessary to cut off water supplies during the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on three nights each week. This was necessary to enable water to be conserved at the service reservoir at Penwallis, if this were not done, it would not be possible to distribute water to some of the higher levels in the district.

Work has progressed in the Augmentation Scheme authorised by the Fishguard and Goodwick Water and Gas Act of 1936. The proposed new main from the sources of supply to the service reservoir will undoubtedly eliminate the need of intermittent cutting of supplies. The Council authorised the installation of Wallace and Tiernan Chlorinome at Penwallis with a view to eliminating bacteria content in the water, this plant was installed and worked satisfactory during the year.

Samples were submitted for analysis and the analyst's report in each case was satisfactory.

A number of complaints were received and investigated of inadequate supply, and as previously stated, most of these complaints are due to corrosion in the existing services pipes. It would be an advantage to all concerned if owners renewed old service pipes on the completion of the present augmentation works.

During the year steps have been taken with a view to obtaining a sufficient supply of water to houses not previously provided with a sufficient supply. Harbour Village, Goodwick, is supplied by the Railway Company from its own supply obtained from Letterston, also the Docks are supplied from this source. Stop and Call area, including the Council School is supplied from Ffynnonclyn. Lower Fishguard is dependant upon various springs in the locality. When the present augmentation works are completed these areas will be able to obtain a supply from the Council's undertaking.

No. of Notices requesting owners to provide an adequate supply of water	12
No. of Notices complied with	8
No. of Notices served in respect of wastage of water.....	6
No. of Notices complied with	6

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No change has been made in the method of disposal of sewage during the year, this method is by three main outfalls to the sea, viz., Slade, Saddle Point, and near the Marine Factory at Fishguard Harbour.

The outfall at Slade, Fishguard, cannot be regarded as satisfactory as the outfall is above low water mark.

Lower Town is not yet provided with a sewage system, adequate sewerage is long overdue in this area.

Such provision has not been made in the past owing to no proper water supplies being available, but now that the provision of an adequate supply of water is being made available the Council could favourably consider the provision of a sewage scheme. The unsatisfactory method adopted by the inhabitants for disposing of night soil constitutes a menace to public health. During the year Private Street Works were carried out at Stadeway. These works included the laying down of 174 lineal yards of 6″ sewer.

During the year steps were taken against owners to provide proper drainage facilities to premises.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of New Dwellings connected to sewer	7
No. of premises connected, but connected to Sewer as result of informal action by your Officers	25
No. of Dwellings now connected with sewer	1333
No. of premises connected to cesspits	32
No. of other types of closet accommodation including Chemical Closets	212
No. of dwellings not connected to sewer	244
No. of informal notices requesting drains to be connected to sewer	12
No. of informal notices complied with	2
No. of formal notices	10
No. of formal notices complied with by owners	9

There is an increase in the number of premises connected with the sewer with a consequent reduction in the number of cesspits and other types.

Shops.

These premises have periodically been inspected by your officers, no formal action has been taken during the year in the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Inspections have also been made to premises where foods are prepared and deposited for sale. A difficult problem arises from the tendency to use parts of private dwelling houses as shops for the sale of food. It frequently happens that the room used as shop premises is very small and inadequate.

No. of Inspections of Shops made during year	95
No. of informal notices served	4
No. of notices complied with	4
No. of formal notices served	0

Smoke Abatement.

No new industries have been established in the area during the year. Premises from which such nuisances are likely to arise have been kept under observation and the Council have during the year considered a report of an Inspector of a Government Department in respect of the alleged nuisance of Goodwick Brickworks.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools, public or private, in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of infestation of bed bugs have been observed by your Officers, so no action has been called for.

Disinfection.

In all cases where notifiable diseases have occurred, premises have been disinfected including schools. Disinfection has also been carried out in cases of doubt, in these instances it has been carried out at the request of owner or occupier.

No. of premises disinfected 35

Arrangements exist for the disinfection of clothing, etc., for tuberculosis at Sealyham Hospital, other notifiable diseases at Pembroke Dock. In such cases the cost of transport to and from these places falls on the Council.

Schools.

There are four Elementary Schools, one Intermediate and two Private Schools in the area.

Steps were taken during the year with a view to improving the Sanitary accommodation at the Intermediate School at Fishguard. Unfortunately the L.E.A. did not consider it expedient to connect these premises to the public sewer.

Attention is called to the very unsatisfactory condition of the sanitary accommodation at the National School, Fishguard. The type of closet at these premises are obsolete and should not be tolerated.

Rivers and Streams.

During the year complaints have been received and investigated of pollution caused by persons in the area depositing the contents of pail closets over the river banks. The place where the contents are generally thrown is subjected to tidal movements, but it often happens that the refuse is thrown carelessly over the bank and a large quantity of it remains on the higher part of the bank which is not cleaned with high tides.

During the year it has been necessary to issue notices to all householders in this area, warning them against this practice. It is extremely difficult to ascertain the actual culprits as the offence is done during the night.

Slaughterhouses.

These premises continue to be kept under close observation and takes up a great deal of the time of the Inspector in spite of the fact that the number of premises are so few.

No. of Saughterhouses in the district (including Fishguard Harbour	4
No. of Butchers using same	9
No. of Inspections made	256
No. of Animals slaughtered:—	
Beef	364
Sheep	572
Lambs	228
Pigs	144
Calves	21

Inspections were made on the days allocated for slaughtering and on days other than the allocated days and meats prepared for sale examined. The following were destroyed as unsound: 1 cwt., 1qr., 15 lbs.

It is interesting to note that of the animals slaughtered there was no evidence of tuberculosis. The meat destroyed as unsound were mainly due to porasitic diseases of the organs.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

These premises continued to receive attention during the year, also the vehicles used for the transport of milk.

No. of Cowsheds on Register	12
No. of Retailers on Register	24
No. of Retailers producing outside area	12
No. of Retailers licensed by the County Council for Designated Milk	3
No. of Informal Notices respecting premises	2
No. of Notices complied with	2

FACTORIES ACTS.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Number of Occupiers prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories with mechanical power	31	4	0
Factories without mechanical power	51	5	0
*Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	7	0	0
Total	89	9	0

* Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

2.— Defects Found

Particulars.	Number of Defects: Found	Number of Defects: Remedied	Number of Defects: Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
Totals	5	5	—	—

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 253
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 259
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932 198
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 201
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 9
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 27

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 24

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 11
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
(a) By Owners 9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 2
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 7
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
(a) By Owners 6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 3
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 4
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 19
(2) Number of families dwelling therein 25
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 84
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 12
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 13

(d) Overcrowding have recurred in two instances referred to under—

(c) (1) consequent upon the occupiers of the houses taking in lodgers after sub-tenants have found other accommodation.

(e) There is an increase in the number of cases of overcrowding mainly due to the shortage of houses in the area. There are twenty non-parlour type houses in course of construction at Heol-y-Felin, Goodwick. These are built with a view to accommodating persons to be displaced from houses to be demolished and to relieve previous cases of overcrowding.

Owing to the influx of a large number of people employed at the works in Trecwn, the housing accommodation is becoming acute, also there are a number of houses to be considered with a view to demolition. Proposals are in the course of being prepared for the provision of an additional number to be built at Fishguard. It is hoped that the erection of these additional houses will not be delayed unduly.

PORT SANITATION.

The Council are the Port Health Authority and have the jurisdiction of the Health Services of Fishguard Harbour.

The port deals solely with the traffic from Eire and no action is taken under the Inspection of Aliens Orders.

No foreign going ships enter the port with the exception of boats seeking shelter and no certificates have been called for in respect of clearance during the year.

The ships arriving at the port are the scheduled services from Cork, Waterford and Rosslare.

The Cork services arrive on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The Waterford services on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The Rosslare on each day except Mondays of each week.

Inspections have been made on the ships arriving, no action has been necessary in respect of the sanitary provisions as the ships are always maintained in a good sanitary condition.

Live stock continues to be imported from Cork and Waterford, also various other foods produced in Eire.

Such foods imported are not stored in any warehouses at the port as the goods imported are transferred from the boats to the trains, a large percentage being of a perishable nature.

The foods imported are chiefly bacon, pork, mutton, lamb, poultry, butter, eggs, cream, fish, animal organs, etc.

Inspections have continued to be maintained for the examination of Imported Foods and results show an improvement in the quality imported. There is also a decided improvement in the system of packing for transport.

The following are the quantities of the various foods destroyed as unsound on inspection by your officers :—

Pigs Plucks, 48—1 cwt. 2 qrs. 17 lbs.
Pigs Carcase, 1—1 cwt. 3 qrs. 3 lbs.
Pigs, other visiena—14 lbs.
Beef—13 cwt. 3 qrs. 0 lbs.
Poultry—1 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.
Fish—27 lbs.
Rabbits—2 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs.

Total of foods destroyed as unsound, 24 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb.

Yours faithfully,

T. H. JAMES, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond),
Medical Officer of Health.